



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary  
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

November 1, 2021

Dear Shellfish Leaseholder,

Although our industry experienced significant challenges again this year, it is encouraging that some growers experienced stronger and more consistent markets in 2021. We know access to affordable, consistent supplies of larvae and seed have been difficult to obtain but are hopeful that next year will bring about great growing conditions and calm weather. Thank you again for your perseverance, patience and understanding, and your investment in Maryland aquaculture as we transition into a more productive and successful 2022.

As you are aware, Maryland laws and regulations require leaseholders to pay annual rent and provide the department with a report documenting the use of a lease during 2021. Additionally, both leaseholders and other individuals who plan to engage in aquaculture activities on a leased area should possess a Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permit and/or Registration Card. Enclosed in this mailing are your invoice for annual rent and the documents that must be completed and returned to the department in order to comply with these requirements. **Failure to submit complete and timely payment and information may result in delayed permits or termination of your lease.**

Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permits and Registration Cards (SAHP/RCs) will be renewed in 2022 if all requirements of the permit, including monthly harvest reporting, have been satisfied and individuals remain eligible for permitting. New Registrants, who have not done so previously, must obtain the required DNRid and Aquaculture Declaration, review the harvester education training document and sign the Harvester Verification and Signature Form prior to receiving a harvester card.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your current SAHP/RCs will expire on Dec. 31, 2021. If you plan to conduct aquaculture activities on your lease beginning Jan. 1, 2022, your paperwork must be complete and received no later than Dec. 3, 2021, to ensure processing, printing, and delivery of your Permit and Registration Cards before Jan. 1. Issuance of SAHP/RCs will not be guaranteed by Jan. 1 for leases that have forms received after Dec. 3. After that date, SAHP Renewal forms will be processed upon receipt and 2022 SAHP/RCs will be mailed on a rolling basis every two weeks beginning Jan. 6, 2022. **All forms must be completed and received by the department no later than Jan. 1, 2022** to remain in good standing and avoid receipt of a termination notification letter.

Be sure to review the instructions and information on all of the forms carefully. Please use the checklist below to ensure you have enclosed all of the required items with your mailing. Incomplete or unsigned forms will not be accepted and may lead to a delay in permitting.

- ☐ 2022 Lease Rent Invoice with Payment
- ☐ 2021 Annual Usage Report Form (including water column insurance as required)
- ☐ 2022 Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permit Registrant Renewal Form
- ☐ 2022 Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Verification and Signature Form (if needed)
- ☐ 2022 Declaration of Summer Harvest Landing Location
- ☐ 2021 Aquaculture Industry Status Report Survey (optional)

If you hold more than one lease, you must complete and return a separate 2021 Annual Report, SAHP Renewal, Verification and Signature, and Summer Landing Location form for each lease. Rent may be submitted as one combined payment for all of your leases; however, please note all lease number(s) on the memo field of your check. Finally, **please make a copy of all forms and reports submitted to the department for your records.** If you have any questions about these enclosures, please contact the Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division at (410) 260-8652.

Sincerely,

Karl R. Roscher  
Director, Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division  
Fishing and Boating Services